

# The Bloomfield Record.

[OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE TOWNSHIP.]

S. M. HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1875.

All who are interested in having a live newspaper in this village are requested to send us by mail, or to the publishing office, local items of news, correspondence, etc., for publication.

No charge is made for publishing Marriages, Deaths, or Religious Notices.

Single numbers of THE RECORD can always be had at this Office, at the Post Office, and of the News-dealer.

All kinds of PRINTING done at THE RECORD Office.

## Adjusting Taxes.

The Board of Assessors for Essex County met in Newark on Monday last to adjust valuations and fix the County tax rate for the year. The following table is the result of the assessors' deliberations:

	Polis.	Valuation.
First Ward Orange.	477	1,213,000
Second "	511	1,685,000
Third "	804	2,074,000
Bloomfield.	990	3,141,000
Bellefonte.	438	1,356,000
Caldwell.	575	1,665,000
Livingston.	247	553,000
Clinton.	262	3,272,000
Milburn.	268	1,490,000
East Orange.	1,250	4,861,000
West Orange.	490	3,052,000
South "	512	2,626,000
Montclair.	519	2,205,000
Franklin.	280	765,000
Newark.	21,064	103,950,000
	28,709	323,682,000

The aggregate is about the same as the valuation placed upon property last year. It ought to have been considerably less. There is no good reason why our assessors should keep the valuation of property up in accordance with panic prices now that everything else has gone down.

From the report of the proceedings of the County Assessors, as published in a Newark paper, we learn that only one of their number had, or at least showed, a proper appreciation of the "signs of the times" in this matter. The Assessor from Bloomfield had his valuations marked down \$107,000. A Newark tax commissioner, thinking he had discovered a mare's nest here, moved that Bloomfield be brought up to the old figure of last year. Mr. Oakes, our assessor, opposed that motion and stated his belief that farming property in his township, the price of which had been pushed up to fictitious figures, through speculation, and had been taxed on that basis, had receded from those fancy prices and therefore there should be a similar decrease in valuation. What has been the effect of the financial depression upon property in Bloomfield in doubtless the same, to a greater or less extent, elsewhere. But the board of assessors, or a majority of them, could not see things in this light. Because all save one of their number were wrong, instead of taking a little time to examine into and get things right, they adjusted matters in a twinkling by bringing Bloomfield up to the "old figure" of last year.

It looks as though there was either undue haste, or that the city Assessors, in thorough sympathy with the city Freeholders, are ready to do all they can, even at the risk of injury to their own interests to oppress the townships, and defeat their influence. If it must be apparent to all careful observers and thinkers that the marking up of valuations in these times by our assessors, (unless it is done all over the State,) makes our tax rate throughout the county proportionately higher than it ought to be.

The sum of \$1,002,550 as asked for by the Board of Freeholders, was adopted as the basis of assessment, which makes the county rate 73 per cent. on \$100—somewhat higher than last year. Out of this \$1,002,550, the Road Board are to have for repairs \$20,000; interest on Road Board Bonds, \$90,552; Road Board salaries \$5,000.

If the taxpaying people are wise, they will, next winter, see to it that the Essex Road Board is abolished. The avenues are now for the most part finished, and where is the necessity of a board of salaried officials sitting in Newark to pass upon the small matter of repairs to these avenues? It is a roundabout way of doing business. A citizen living on Ridgewood or Bloomfield avenue, noticing a damage to a drain or to the street, makes complaint to the Town Committee. The latter, with no power to do anything themselves, must notify the Road Board at Newark, who some time in the course of human events, if they see fit, can cause the repairs to be made! It seems to us the town authorities ought to have control of all streets within their borders, and not thus be obliged to play second fiddle to a new commission. The Road Board Commission, having served the purpose for which it was created, has existed long enough. Its extinguishment would do something toward diminishing our taxes.

## Town Committee Proceedings.

The Town Committee met last Friday, to discuss upon the assessment to be made for lighting street lamps, the matter was laid over until the next meeting.

The petition for a plank sidewalk upon the east side of Bloomfield avenue, south of the Center, was granted and the contract awarded to the lowest bidders, Taylor Bros. & Co., to lay the same except where property owners lay their own.

It was ordered to notify the Montclair Railway Co. to repair the bridge at Forest avenue.

The bill of The Bloomfield Record for printing, amounting to \$17.60, was ordered paid.

The threatening clouds and unpropitious weather probabilities of Wednesday morning did not prevent the friends of Hope Chapel Sunday School from setting out on their excursion to Ringwood.

The train left Broad street promptly at 8 o'clock, the party numbering about 150. It began to rain soon after the departure, but the weather cleared up an hour or two later. Arriving at Ringwood, Mr. George, superintendent of the iron mine, welcomed the party very cordially, placing at their disposal his elegant new house, just finished but yet unoccupied. Refreshment tables were constructed in the parlors, which the ladies loaded with the edibles that had been furnished. This important feature of the excursion proved to be fully as enjoyable as a picnic in the woods. The afternoon passed quickly and pleasantly, with singing, roaming about the woods, climbing the hills, visiting the iron mines, etc. The train reached Bloomfield on the return trip at six o'clock, all agreeing that the excursion was the best ever enjoyed by the School.

The Constitution Amendments.

We publish in another place the law passed by the Legislature relating to the proposed amendments to the State Constitution. For the benefit of any who may not have time to read it, we will state that it provides for a special election to be held throughout the State on Tuesday, Sept. 7th, to enable electors to vote for or against each of the proposed amendments, as agreed to in the Legislature. During the four weeks preceding the election, the amendments are to be published in the newspapers to afford the people an opportunity to become familiar with them.

## The School Meeting.

The annual meeting called by the Trustees to vote the necessary appropriations for school purposes was held last Monday evening. The attendance, though not very large, comprised many leading and influential citizens. The discussion upon matters connected with the schools was full of interest. The result of the meeting was the approval, by almost unanimous votes, of the various sums recommended by the board of trustees, as follows:

MONTCLAIR R. R. TIME TABLE.				
Leave Montclair.	Leave New York.	Leave Newark.	Arrive Newark.	
6:04 A.M.	6:10 A.M.	6:17 A.M.	7:00 A.M.	
7:30 A.M.	7:42 A.M.	7:49 A.M.	8:30 A.M.	
8:52	9:04	9:11	9:45	
2:16 P.M.	2:22 P.M.	2:29 P.M.	3:15 P.M.	
4:59	5:06	5:15	6:00	
Total				
817,000				

Mr. E. S. Wilde made some remarks, before these appropriations were passed upon, in which he expressed the opinion that our schools had passed the bounds of a common school education, which was the original plan of the free school system. He endeavored to show that the expense of teaching the higher branches imposed a heavy tax upon the poor while they received little benefit from it, as few of that class entered the high school, their parents removing them as soon as they acquired the ordinary branches; therefore the poor man paid for the rich man's schooling. He also argued that the burden of the school tax came upon real estate property and that those who were earnest in advocacy of high schools and a finished education were people who paid a very small portion of the taxes.

Mr. C. J. Turner addressed the meeting in reply to Mr. Wilde. He spoke in an eloquent and earnest manner in defense of educational interests. He hoped the progress which he had been permitted to see in Bloomfield during a residence of nine years would not now be arrested. He did not want to go back to the days of log school houses.

Mr. G. W. Cooke also spoke, in favor of the high school and in support of the Trustees. He was in favor of voting them the money they asked for. He would rather see the street-lamps put out than have the town suffer in its intellectual light.

Mr. Thomas, one of the Trustees, explained that the expense of the high school class was a small item in the cost of the schools. They paid the highest salaries to the teachers of the lowest departments.

Mr. Dodd also explained that the main object and expense was directed to giving the children of the district the very best instruction at the start.

Rev. A. C. Frissell made an appeal to those who were not wealthy, telling them not to take their children away from the high school, which would lift them up to a higher plane, and to which the parents would also be raised up. He cited examples in support of his position that it paid those who were poor to devote time and energy to this matter of a high r education.

Mr. Weaver said he took a practical view of the subject of raising money. We were all suffering from the financial depression. Real estate, rents, provisions and prices of everything were lower, and he would ask if it was unreasonable, under such circumstances, to request the teachers to submit to a reduction of ten per cent. on their salaries? He made a motion that an appropriation of \$5,000 instead of \$6,000 be voted, but which was lost.

The sentiment of the people of Bloomfield, as indicated by the above meeting is almost entirely in favor of giving the children of our community the advantages of a first-class education. As we have not crippled the Trustees by cutting short the appropriations, there is every prospect that they will be able next year to give a good account of their stewardship, and show the people of the District a better exhibit of educational progress than ever before.

The petition for a plank sidewalk upon the east side of Bloomfield avenue, south of the Center, was granted and the contract awarded to the lowest bidders, Taylor Bros. & Co., to lay the same except where property owners lay their own.

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## The Montclair Railway.

There has been a change in the running time of the first train out from New York, which now leaves Liberty street at 7:30 instead of 9:30 A.M. As our outside pages, containing the time-table, were printed before the correction came to hand, we repeat the time-table below as corrected:

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## MONTCLAIR.

On Friday of last week a young son of Jerome Sigler met with a fall and dislocated his left wrist.

We are glad to hear that an extensive manufacturing business is about to be commenced in Montclair and hope next week to give full particulars.

On Wednesday of next week the children connected with the Sabbath School at St